

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of March 10 - March 14, 2008**

- 1. New Partnership:** The Recreation Director finalized a new partnership with Give an Hour, a non-profit organization which has signed up over 1000 mental health professionals throughout the country to provide services to veterans who do not have insurance coverage or who drop through the cracks. Takoma Park resident Dr. John Breeskin is spearheading the effort to utilize space one evening a week in the Takoma Park Community Center which is in close proximity to Walter Reed Army Hospital, Bethesda Naval Hospital and the Washington Capitol Veterans Hospital. Dr Breeskin will use a group therapy approach for multiple families to address common issues for returning veterans. There is also an educational component for an internship practicum for students who will become a part of the therapy team. *(Recreation)*
- 2. The Mayor Testifies:** Mayor Bruce Williams and City Attorney Susan Silber testified in Annapolis on Tuesday against anti-immigrant and anti-Sanctuary City legislation being considered in the House of Delegates. From all accounts, Takoma Park came off looking very good in a heated afternoon and evening of testimony. *(Deputy City Manager)*
- 3. Irish Visitors:** On Tuesday, a group of twelve community leaders from Ireland and their hosts, as well as representatives of the Maryland Governor's Office, came to tour Takoma Park. Their interest was centered on ways to bring people together across race and other dividing lines. They toured the Community Center in full swing, saw the Ethiopian Art Exhibit in the Community Center Atrium, took a bus tour around the community, and stopped in at the Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center to learn about the anti-gang work done there. The visitors each had impressive resumes in their respective communities in a variety of community building programs. *(Deputy City Manager)*
- 4. Takoma Metro Workshop:** Wednesday, March 19 is the date of the Community Priority Setting Workshop regarding the Takoma Metro development. An open house begins at 6 pm and the program runs from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center. Look for the special insert in the March issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter for more information or go to <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/metro/index.html> to read the information and complete the on-line questionnaire. *(Deputy City Manager)*
- 5. Talent Show:** The Afternoon Addition kids have been rehearsing their acts for the Talent Showcase on March 20 at 4:30. The drama component of the program has been an elective for the past 10 weeks. *(Recreation)*
- 6. Star Search:** The Takoma Park Recreation Department sent Carey Antoszewski and Paula Lisowski to the Howard County Arts Showcase on March 6 and 7 to watch performing artists exhibit their talents for potential performances in Takoma Park. This event leads to several great performances that can be seen in the Afternoon Addition, Spring Break Camp, Summer Camp, Senior and Teen Programs, as well as special events. *(Recreation)*
- 7. At a Theater Near You:** Thirty-five teens participated in the movie marathon for TGIF. Two movies were shown between 6:00p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Teens watched

"Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby" and "Coach Carter." We offered pizza, popcorn and soda to all that participated. It was a fun and safe evening for everyone. Our next Friday event is indoor rock climbing on Friday, March 14. *(Recreation)*

**8. Seniors Love Attitude!:** Ten Silver Fox seniors attended the sold out performance of Tappers with Attitude at the Black Rock Center for the Arts on Saturday, March 8, 2008. Tappers with Attitude is a multi cultural group of 30 dancers ranging in age from 10 to 18, representing 24 schools in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Under the direction of Victoria Moss, the youth ensemble's mission is "to preserve and promote tap dance as a percussive art with emphasis on the jazz tradition, and to foster a new generation to carry on the art." *(Recreation)*

**9. The Chief in Meetings:**

- On March 10, Chief Ricucci attended the CSAFE Oversight Committee Meeting in Prince George's County, at the Hyattsville District Station. The Committee discussed the FY09 CSAFE strategy hat will be submitted to the Governor's Office for Crime Control and Prevention on April 1.
- On March 11, Chief Ricucci attended Montgomery County Chief's Sharing of Information luncheon, which Chief Manger of Montgomery County hosted.
- On March 12, Capt. Coursey and Mary Kendall attended the CSAFE COMSTAT Meeting at Montgomery County Police Department Headquarters in Rockville.
- Also on March 12, Chief Ricucci, Ms. Matthews, Ms. Plevy and Ms. Luy attended the North Takoma Community Meeting at the Montgomery College in Takoma Park. *(Police)*

**10. Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 136 traffic stops, which resulted in some citations, four (4) vehicle impounds and two (2) sets of tag impounds. *(Police)*

**11. Neighborhood Commercial Area Improvements (Wards 1,2,3,4, and 5):** The HCD Department hosted an open house workshop on Monday night, providing the public with an opportunity to weigh in on options for the implementation of a number of small scaled improvements for neighborhood commercial areas such as those located at Maple and Sherman Avenues in Ward 4, and Flower and Erie Avenues in Ward 5. The options presented by HCD staff were developed in partnership with neighborhood residents and business owners during a series of Master Plan workshops held throughout the community in 2007. If you are interested in seeing the options presented during the workshop and would like to participate in the review process, please visit the City's website at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) and provide us with your feedback. Comments will be accepted through Monday, March 21. For more information on this project, please contact Melanie Isis at 301-891-7231. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**12. Community Meeting on Proposed 6450 New Hampshire Avenue Development (Ward 3):** The owner of 6450 New Hampshire Avenue has proposed the development of a car wash on the property (if approved, the car wash would be located between American Pest Management and the nearby gas station.) If you are interested in learning more about the owner's plans and the proposed subdivision, you are invited to meet with the project consultant this Saturday. The meeting will be held at the site on Saturday, March 15 at 10 a.m.. The preliminary plan application for subdivision is one of the steps the owner will be required to take prior to building on the site. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**13. New Hampshire Avenue Greening and Community Gardening Meeting (Wards 2, 3, 6):** Wednesday night's informational and networking session, hosted by the HCD Department, was well attended with roughly 30 residents and organizations participating in the discussion. If you would like to learn more about community gardening and greening opportunities along the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor or are interested in establishing a community garden, please contact Paul Grenier at (301) 891-7220.

*(Housing and Community Development)*

**14. Long Branch-Sligo Neighborhood Traffic Calming Testing (Ward 2):** The second test of three temporary traffic control patterns tests in the Long Branch- Sligo neighborhood will begin on Friday, March 14. The new traffic pattern will be tested for a period of two weeks, concluding on Friday, March 28. The third and final test will conclude on April 11th. For more details see

<http://takomaparkmd.gov/hcd/transportation.html#test> The purpose of these tests is to assess different methods of reducing traffic volumes on neighborhood residential streets.  
*(Housing and Community Development)*

**15. Volunteer: Mini-Trail Rehabilitation - March 15 (Ward 4):** The Takoma Park Safe Routes to School Program is partnering with Takoma Park Middle School to clean up the small trail behind the school. If you are interested in volunteering for this project, join us at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 15, in the back parking lot of the Takoma Park Middle School near the tennis courts at 7611 Piney Branch Road. Be sure to wear your work clothes! Contact Lucy Neher at [Lucyn@takomagov.org](mailto:Lucyn@takomagov.org) for more information. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**16. Community Legacy Grant Awarded (Wards 1, 2, 3 and 6):** Governor O'Malley announced on Thursday that the City of Takoma Park and Main Street Takoma had been awarded Maryland State Community Legacy Grants. The City received \$150,000 for commercial revitalization, public art and other amenities along the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor. Main Street Takoma received grant funds to conduct a market study of Old Takoma and begin a Revolving Loan Fund. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**17. Safe Routes to School Grant Awarded:** The City has been notified that it has received a \$127,800 grant from the State Highway Administration for the second phase of its Safe Routes to School program. The funds are to be used to further the educational programming coordinated by the HCD Department under the direction of Lucy Neher, an evaluation of the condition and location of existing sidewalks and the construction of additional or replacement sidewalks. For more information on the Safe Routes to School Program, please contact David Suls at 301-891-7219. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**18. Free Workshop for Tenants - March 18:** "Know Your Rights as a Tenant", a class specifically for tenants in Takoma Park, is being offered free of charge on Tuesday, March 18, from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Learn how to protect your security deposit, what to do when your landlord enters your unit without notification and what to do if your landlord increases the rent above the rent stabilization allowance. To register, call 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**19. Ethiopian Exhibit a Success:** The opening reception of the Ethiopian Art Exhibit - held this past Saturday - was a resounding success with an estimated 250 people

participating in the event. The festivities, held at the Takoma Park Community Center, included a sampling of traditional foods, an Ethiopian coffee ceremony, dance, music, and an exhibit of children's art. The event was organized by Art for the People in partnership with the Takoma Park Community Action Group, the City of Takoma Park's Recreation Department, and the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission. The art exhibit will be on display throughout the month of March. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**20. Takoma Park Poet Laureate Offers Free Poetry Workshop for High School Students - March 18, April 1 and 8:** Anne Becker, Takoma Park Poet Laureate, will offer a free poetry workshop for high school students - beginners and experienced writers alike - beginning Tuesday, March 18. Various elements of poetry will be introduced in discussion and in reading model poems. Participants will write their own poems, read them to the group and receive feedback to deepen and enlarge their own understanding of what they have written. The poems generated during the workshop will be gathered into an anthology and published by the Arts and Humanities Commission. To register, please call 301-891-7224. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**21. Newsletter Delivery:** Staff received reports from several residents in both single-family homes and multi-family dwellings that they had not received mail delivery of the March newsletter. Staff communicated with numerous officials at the post office. Postal officials are requesting specific street addresses where no delivery occurred in order to further investigate, so residents are invited to email staff at [LonniM@takomagov.org](mailto:LonniM@takomagov.org) if no newsletter was received this month. (*City TV*)

**22. The Energy Star:** The Energy Star presentation cosponsored by the Committee on the Environment and the Old Town Business Association was televised on March 11 and will be replayed in the coming weeks. (*City TV*)